Spline-Based Methods for Solving Thermal and Mechanical Fluid-Structure Interaction in Compressible Flows

M. Make 1,2 , N. Hosters 1 and M. Behr 1

¹ Chair for Computational Analysis of Technical Systems, RWTH-Aachen University, Schinkelstrasse 2 52062, Aachen Germany. ² make@cats.rwth-aachen.de

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In many engineering applications involving trans- or supersonic flows, considering thermalmechanical fluid-structure interaction (FSI) phenomena is of great importance. In the design process of space-propulsion systems, for example, neglecting such phenomena could lead to poor design decisions and possible system failure [1]. Additionally, in order to predict the effects of shock-wall interactions, an accurate geometric representation of the design is key.

In the current work, we present a spline-based coupled approach capable of simulating compressible flow problems involving thermal and mechanical FSI phenomena. Both the fluid and structural solver, make use of a common spline definition to represent the geometry. By doing so an exact geometric description of the coupling interface is obtained and additional errors caused by non-matching grids are omitted.

On the fluid domain, the compressible Navier-Stokes equations are solved using our in-house finite element solver XNS. This solver is based on the Deforming Spatial Domain/Stabilized Space-Time (DSD/SST) procedure extended by NURBS-enhanced finite elements [2]. On the structural domain, the thermo-elastic problem is solved using FEAFA, our in-house structural finite elements solver extended with isogeometric analysis [2]. Both solvers are coupled using a staggered approach through the Aero-Thermoelastic Coupling Module (ATCM). The complete framework is demonstrated by means of a set of two-dimensional test cases.

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